

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 11 with the following replacement paragraph:

In FIG. 2, the furnace body 2 is shown as a preferable example, and the inside of the furnace body 2 is divided into a reducing zone Z_1 to a cooling zone Z_4 by partitions K_1 to K_3 . At the upstream side in the hearth moving direction, raw agglomerate-feeding means 4 is provided at a first position, hearth material-feeding means 5 is provided at a third position, atmosphere-adjusting agent-feeding means 7 is provided, renewable hearth-leveling means 12 is provided between the first and third positions ~~hearth material-feeding means 5~~, and raw material-leveling means 8 are disposed, so as to oppose the moving hearth 1, and in addition, at the downstream side (since the rotary structure is formed, this side is actually positioned upstream with respect to the hearth material-feeding means 5 and just in front thereof) in the moving direction, a discharge device 6 is provided at a second position.